

Quick Facts about NOVA: Retention Rates

Retention Rates

NOVA tracks fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall **retention rates** of first-time in college (FTIC), program-placed (degree- or certificate-seeking) students.

Comparison Groups

NOVA's retention rates are presented alongside several comparison groups:

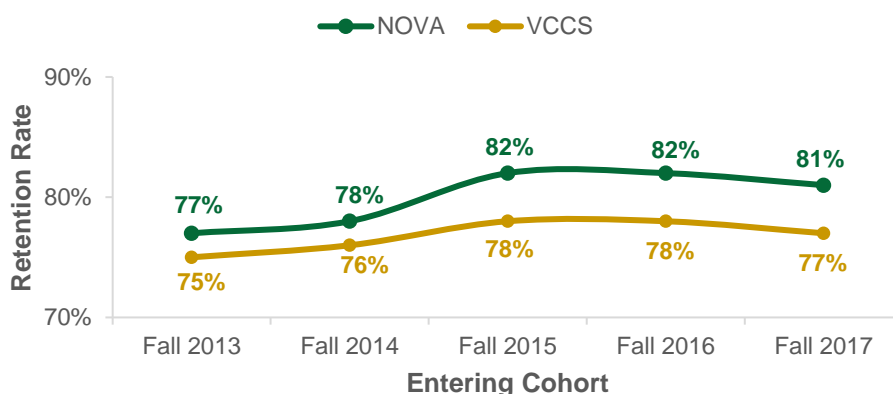
- **Virginia's Community Colleges (VCCS)** – A community college system comprising the 23 community colleges located in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- **All Public, Two-Year Institutions** – All public, two-year community colleges across the nation
- **Peer Institutions** – Fifteen public, two-year institutions (including NOVA) with student populations that are similar in demographics to NOVA students

Retention Rates at NOVA versus VCCS Colleges

Among FTIC, program-placed students at NOVA in the Fall 2013 through Fall 2017 cohorts:

- The **fall-to-spring** retention rate **increased** from 77 to 81 percent.
- NOVA's fall-to-spring retention rate for this population was **consistently higher** than the VCCS rate.

Figure 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of FTIC, Program-Placed Students at NOVA and VCCS: Fall 2013 through Fall 2017 Cohorts



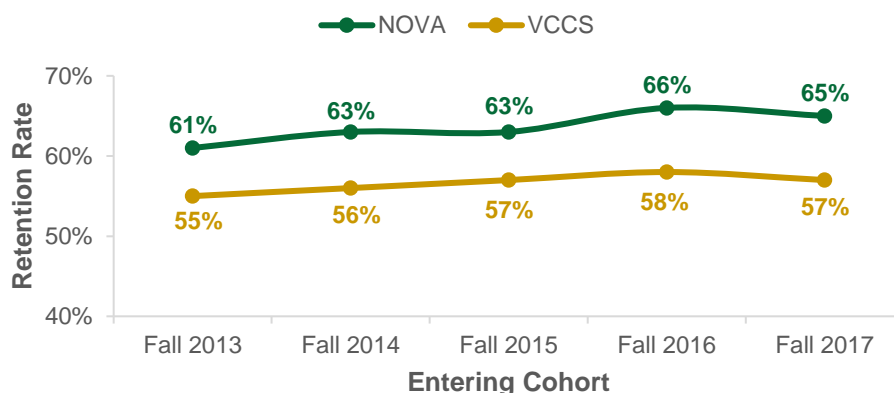
Among FTIC, program-placed students at NOVA in the Fall 2013 through Fall 2017 cohorts:

- The **fall-to-fall** retention rate **increased** from 61 to 65 percent.

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- NOVA's fall-to-fall retention rate for this population was **consistently higher** than the VCCS rate.

Figure 2. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of FTIC, Program-Placed Students at NOVA and VCCS: Fall 2013 through Fall 2017 Cohorts



Retention Rates at NOVA versus All Public, Two-Year Institutions and Peer Institutions

- For the Fall 2012 through Fall 2016 cohorts, the **fall-to-fall** retention rates of FTIC, full-time, program-placed students at NOVA (between 70 and 73 percent) were **consistently higher** than those of all public, two-year institutions (between 60 and 62 percent) and the median of NOVA's peer institutions (between 57 and 63 percent).

Figure 3. Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates of FTIC, Full-Time, Program-Placed Students at NOVA; All Public, Two-Year Institutions; and Peer Institutions (Median): Fall 2012 through Fall 2016 Cohorts

